GLEN PARK NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1995

Recollections of Glen Park's Early Days

Bloody Noses, Pig Farms & Moonshine

By Alfred Todd

Yes, time sure goes by.

Yes, your property line is on the old Rancho San Miguel, I'm sure.

Yes, I still can remember the pig farm at the corner of Chenery and Diamond (an eating place now) and the old wood trestle across Glen Creek from Chenery to Bosworth Street. No, the folks where you live didn't get along too good with the folks down Chilton and, no, they wouldn't permit streets thru to Joost Avenue at Brompton, Chilton, Acadia, Baden, etc. I remember when they had to move houses out to have the streets in front and rear of Glen Park School run through to Joost Ave.

Diamond St. looking North at Chenery St. Houses in background are on Surrey St. Diamond Heights rises in the distance. The #26 Streetcar runs past here. Photo taken May 20, 1908. Photo courtesy Dustin Logan.

About 1917 or so, they took the old car barn down on Monterey Blvd. (its name then was Sunnyside Avenue). We used to play on the old brickwork of the building. Old Streetcar No. 10 had a switch there and a single line ran up to Gennessee Street and the end of the line. The United Railroads ran their cars past Colma and also way down to San Mateo. I believe they started at 5th and Market all the way out Mission Street. They were big, fast electric cars called "subs".

Also the electric street cars on Diamond Street went on Sundays up to the Glen Park picnic grounds. Old man Gates and his 4-wheel trolley ran from Bosworth and Mission all the way up Bosworth to the Park every day. When we were kids we used to sneak under the fence into the picnic grounds.

The big day was St. Patrick's Day on Sunday. The big, clean cut Irish fellows in their ties, black or blue suits and their white shirts looked like models. Trouble was, they were from County Cork or others from Blarney, etc. When one would say, "Never liked you folks from the other side of Ireland," the fists would fly and much bloodying of noses would occur. The big Irish cops were tough also, though. Us kids understood it would be an exciting day when we saw at least two big black horse-drawn "Marias" (police wagons) go up Chenery Street early on a Sunday morning.

In the afternoon, it was quiet. There were many games, a large pool-hall, animals and bears and also considerable liquor and spirits. And more fights. That was a Sunday outing in Old

continued on back page

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Glen Park News

Glen Park News is published quarterly by the Glen Park Association in March, June, September and December. Signed articles reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Glen Park Association.

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Glen Park Association Notes

Expanded Library Hours a Hit!

Stop by and say hello to Jane, our new librarian, or give her a call at 337-4740. New hours:

Tuesday	10 am – 6 pm
Wednesday	12 – 8 pm
Thursday	1 – 7 pm
Friday	1 – 6 pm
Saturday	1 – 6 pm

Water Use and Recycling

Karen Kubick, SF Department of Public Works recycled water project manager; Lieutenant Thomas Murray, SF Fire Department training officer; and Alfonso Zulueta of the SF Public Utilities Commision narrated a slide show about the City's master groundwater use and water recycling plans at our July meeting. We learned how City agencies are working together to meet our long-term and emergency water needs.

Community Art

Commisioner Meyer, with the SF Arts Commission, narrated a slide show at our August meeting about neighborhood activities. The Arts Commision is partially funded by the hotel tax.

An Experience in National Service

Mayoral candidate Roberta Achtenberg joined us at our June meeting. Former assistant secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and chief enforcement officer of the Fair Housing Act, Roberta talked about her ability as an individual and as a federal official to affect positive change on the lives of our nation's citizens. She shared some of her Washington experiences with us and talked about how HUD impacts our lives on the local level.

N.E.R.T. Lives!

San Francisco's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (N.E.R.T.) is composed of civilians trained in basic first aid, fire fighting, and related skills that are vital to survival after a catastrophe like a major earthquake or a serious accident before professional paramedics, firefighters, or others are on the scene. The training emphasizes basic skills,

not highly technical or high-strength skills. "Nerts" range in age from teenagers to men and women in their seventies. Participants will benefit from the training even if we never have another earthquake or serious accident because a variety of safety and accident prevention matters are covered as well.

The next N.E.R.T. training class close to Glen Park starts soon - on Sept. 26 - at the Miraloma Clubhouse on O'Shaughnessy Boulevard at Del Val. The six Tuesday classes start at 6:30 pm and last until about 9:30. This is likely to be the closest class to Glen Park for a year or so. For more information and to reserve a space in the class, call 558-3456. The free course is provided by the Fire Department.

There are several dozen trained "Nerts" in Glen Park who need to refresh their skills and hopefully learn some new ones. We have a great opportunity on Wednesday, September 13 to meet and work on our skills at the Miraloma Clubhouse with the Mt. Daividson group and some of our other neighbors. If you have any questions, call Les Lewis, Glen Park N.E.R.T. Coordinator, at 587-3629.

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Calendar

San Francisco Natural History Series

Monthly talks are held at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way off Roosevelt Way. Presentations begin promptly at 7:30 pm and are free.

September 28: Creeks, Ponds, Seeps, Springs and Other Squishy Things. Some of the many little-known hydrological resources of the city.

October 26: Gardening for Wildlife. San Francisco could be a haven to all sorts of native birds, butterflies, insects if we would just plant more of their food plants.

November 30: Geology of Bay Area with Overview of California. Earthquake faults, how the bay was formed, and the first 200 million years of bay area geology.

Art exhibits at Café?, 2885 Diamond St.

September: Stephanie Forbes, artwork
October: Charlotte Simard
November: Laguna Honda Pleasure Endeavors Proj.
December: The Sussex St. Group Show

California Native Plant Society

The Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has Thursday morning work parties once a month in Glen Canyon Park. Meet at 9am across from Silvertree. Call Jake Sigg at 731-3028.

Native Plant Restoration

Friends of Glen Canyon Park Saturday Morning Native Plant Restoration Days coming up are Sept. 16, Oct. 21, & Nov. 18. Meet at 9am behind the Recreation Center.

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The Glen Park After School Program is an independent, parent-supported after-school program involving theatre, puppetry and visual arts. Each child is allowed to develop his or her own style. Creative expression is an vital tool for problem solving, socialization and academic achievement.

Registration is now open for fall, and enrollment is limited. For information call

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New Species in Glen Park

The Glen Park Garden Club is flowering in our mist. Seeds were sown at the first meeting in May and membership is now around 20.

Club cultivation includes meeting in members' homes and gardens to view work. Buying sources are shared, as are tips on local events. Tours of Filoli and Peninsula nurseries have been scheduled and the Club intends to share its information in a Glen Park Gardeners Resource booklet. Meetings are the first Tuesday evening of each month. For further information, contact Judy Creighton at 333-4120.

Women's Council of Realtors

"City Lights", the fourth annual Fashion Show/Dinner Dance presented by the San Francisco Chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors, will be held October 21st at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square.

The event will include a drawing for a Lexus ES 300 or a trip for two to Hawaii. The drawing will benefit Breast Cancer Action, Project Survive and the WCR education fund. Tickets for the drawing are $50 each and only 999 will be sold. To order drawing tickets, call 863-7500 extension 190. You need not be present to win.

The inclusive tickets for "City Lights", including fashion show, dinner and dancing, cost $50 each. For reservations, call Karen Vermillion at 334-1880 or Kathy To at 661-6699.

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Garden News

In Glen Canyon Park with Jean Conner

Fall is here. The hillside grasses have turned a pale golden tan. Only a few spots of green remain and most of these are non-native weeds. The Poison Oak is turning red and in many parts of the park it may have already dropped its leaves. A few fall natives are blooming; including the Coyote Bush, Aster and Goldenrod. All three are in the Sunflower family (Compositae) but only the Aster is recognizable as related to a Sunflower.

Our native Aster has pale lavender petals (the ray flowers) and a yellow center (the disk flowers). If you examine the petals and the center with the help of a magnifying glass, you will see that each petal is a single, complete tube flower with both a female pistel and the male stamines. At the base of each shallow tube flower is a small amount of nectar. The center disk is made up of many tightly packed individual tube flowers. These tiny flowers are very attractive to butterflies, bees, flies and other insects which search for the nectar and are tricked into pollinating the flowers.

A close look at the Goldenrod will show you that each floresence is made up of many miniature daisy-like flowers. Each of these are composed of many tube flowers, a composite.

The Coyote Bush is an evergreen shrub. Its small leathery leaves are an adaptation to the California dry summer by restricting the loss of water through transpiration. An example can be seen in the Canyon on the east side of the road, half way between the recreation center and Silvertree building. The Coyote Bush is dioecious: meaning the male and female flowers grow on separate plants. Therefore a male Coyote Bush should be, hopefully, nearby a female Coyote Bush for cross fertilization since self fertilization is not possible. The flowers are tiny and inconspicuous. In the late fall, the female flower produces quantities of fluff which act as parachutes for the ripe seeds.

Composites such as Goldenrod often take the blame for causing allergies. However, the real villains are not the tube flowers of the composites which protect the sex organs so that fertilization is usually the result of a nectar seeking insect. The cause for the allergies are the plants that have airbourne pollen fertilization and expose their naked sex organs to the passing breeze where the pollen is wafted from the male to receptive female. Best wishes for an allergy-free fall.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Glen Park Recreation Center Auditorium at 7:30. Next meetings are September 20, October 18, & November 15. For more information, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862.

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SF Sewage Problems Hit Glen Park

By Diana Ankrom

While we were patiently suffering through the downpours of the last several months, street run-off and raw sewage overflowed at the South East Sewage Treatment Plant and was dumped into San Francisco Bay. Actually, every winter raw sewage is discharged into Islais Creek due to capacity and design limitations at the plant.

The Regional Water Board asked the City to put an end to this and issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for November 1994. In response to this CDO the Planning Department of the City of San Francisco published a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), "Bayside Discharge Alternatives" in May 1994.

Of the six alternatives currently under consideration, the Planning Department is reportedly favoring Alternative #3, the "Cross-town Tunnel." This tunnel would lay deep underground (between 20 and 500 feet), lead through Bernal Heights and Glen Canyon Park, under Sloat Boulevard to the Oceanside Outfall.

Not only would this solution continue polluting water, but the tunnel requires a 30-foot-diameter vent shaft in the middle of Bernal Heights Park. The citizens from Bernal Heights are concerned about odor and toxic emissions of the shaft at a location where kids play and adults relax. Maybe Glen Park, Miraloma, Westwood or St. Francis Wood will be the next site for a vent.

Four of the six alternatives that the City Planning Department proposed would continue dumping sewage either in the San Francisco Bay or the Ocean. None of the alternatives states that fixing the South East Treatment Plant could actually fix the overflow, odor, and capacity problems of the SE Plant. The technologies discussed in the DEIR are concepts developed twenty years ago. Advanced or up-to-date treatment technologies are not examined.

Possible treatment technologies not analyzed in the DEIR include: Advanced Integrated Ponding Systems which provide biologically symbiotic treatment of residential and commercial waste water; creation of Wetlands/Marshland to naturally treat waste water; Tertiary Treatment technologies; Rain Catchment to avoid and minimize wet weather run-off; Gray Water Use to provide drought mitigation; water conservation; and storage tunnels.

The Committee for Better Waste Water Solutions was recently successful in lobbying the Board of Supervisors, which unanimously passed two resolutions that allow for more time to study treatment options and urge the Department of Public Works to study those alternatives meaningfully.

The key, according to the CBWWS, is finding experts in the various areas of treatment who are able to develop the scope of a better, final DEIR. These experts would be able to study the alternatives in detail, so that environmentally superior and economically feasible solutions can be provided.

The CBWWS can be reached at 282-6177.

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Old Glen Park

continued from front page

Glen Park when I was young.

Maybe I shouldn't say this. I had a good friend named Paul Montalon who I went with to old wooden Glen Park School. We were poor. He lived with his stepfather, Sam Ganci, on Diamond and Chenery Street a bit up the Chenery hill about where Ad had her pet shop. The time was the "Roaring Twenties": no booze, only moonshine. Many places made booze in Glen Park. Me and Paul on Saturday morning had to work down in his stepdad's basement running off three to five stills. I remember filling gallon jugs from the stills.

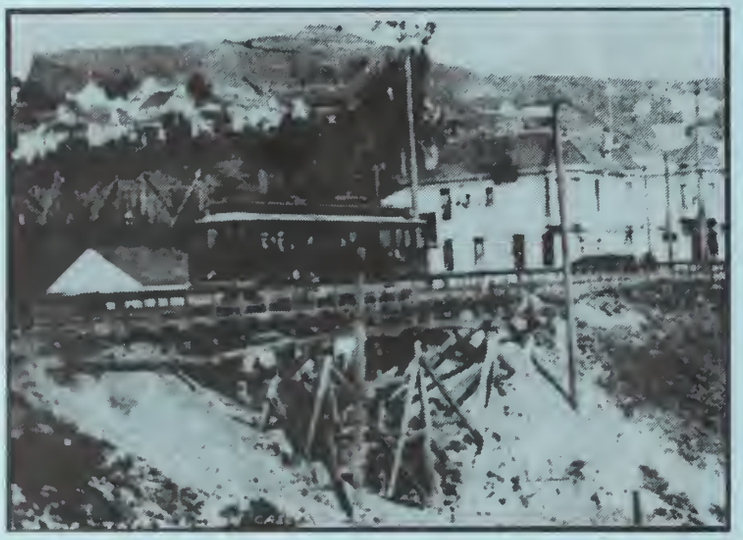
We finished around noon, receiving one dime each for our efforts. We then walked down the railroad track (now Bernal Cut) to the old Lycem Theatre about 29th and Mission. We even had enough for some candy.

Paul's stepdad, Sam, was from the old country and belonged to a bunch of men. "Blackhands", they were called. I think now they call it Mafia. Well, a new store opened next to his called K.K. Tea Co. He protested and said they must move. They didn't and one morning, about 5:00 am, a blast broke out our front window up on Hamerton Avenue. The whole front of K.K. Tea was blown away! So they moved.

I remember the saloon up Diamond, "Hiny Mitchells". My stepdad Schmilt used to set me on the bar and I would eat free lunch. Only men in bars those days.

Yes, I remember the S.P. steam trains every morning at 7:15 stopping at the Joost. My uncle set his watch by it.

Alfred Todd was born in San Francisco February 6, 1911. He is a retired San Francisco firefighter.



Diamond St. looking North from Bosworth St. Trestle crosses Glen Creek (non-underground). #10 and #26 streetcars run past here. Diamond Heights is in the distance . Photo taken in 1912. Photo courtesy Dustin Logan. For information on his collection, call (415) 641-5104.

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P.O. Box 31292, SF, 94131 **Dues are only $5 for the calendar year** Please include Name, Address, Home & Work ph.#s

Next GPA Meetings

September 12–Meeting at the Silver Tree campfire circle
October 17–Candidates night
November 14–To be announced